

# Appendix C: Population Count Estimates

The 1997 OMB Standards ([see Appendix B](#)) were implemented by the U.S. Census Bureau in 2000, whereas data from our various health data sets converted to the standard at different points in time.

Prior to the 2000 U.S. Decennial Census, the race estimates were reported in a rather simple table. Note that the Asian and Pacific Islander populations were combined. See Table A.

After the 2000 U.S. Decennial Census, the race estimates were reported in a table that was much more complex. Note that the Asian and Pacific Islander populations were separated out. The same standards are used in reporting race estimates from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS). Because the ACS uses a sample of the population, the estimates also include a margin of error. The 'Race alone or in combination' means in combination with one or more other races. Therefore, the sum of the five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. See Table B.

The Census Bureau developed a method to bridge population estimates from later years back to the earlier coding scheme. If an individual reported only one race, it was their primary race. Individuals who reported more than one race were distributed into their respective presumed primary race categories based on an algorithm developed by the Census Bureau. This method once again combined the Asian and Pacific Islander populations.

However, the UDOH preferred the new OMB standard that separated out Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander populations. Staff in the UDOH Office of Public Health Assessment developed a method that expanded on the Census Bureau's bridging method to allow for manually separating out the Asian from the Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander populations in the bridged estimates. This was done using the following logic.

**Table A: U.S. 1990 Decennial Census (April 1990) Utah Population Estimates by Race**

White	1,615,845
Black or African American	11,576
American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut	24,283
Asian or Pacific Islander	33,371
Other race	37,775

**Table B: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2006-2008. Utah Population Estimates by Race**

**Race Alone**

White	2,396,824	+/-5,172
Black or African American	27,075	+/-1,524
American Indian and Alaska Native	30,596	+/-1,552
Asian	52,882	+/-1,449
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	20,187	+/-1,093
Some other race	83,441	+/-4,645
Two or more races	52,495	+/-3,082

**Race Alone or in Combination with One or More Other Races**

White	2,446,218	+/-5,401
Black or African American	38,978	+/-1,037
American Indian and Alaska Native	44,701	+/-1,340
Asian	68,048	+/-956
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	27,306	+/-980
Some other race	93,417	+/-4,856

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A current bridged race estimate for Asian/Pacific Islander combined was examined. This included Utahns who reported Asian as their sole race, Utahns who reported Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander as their sole race, and other Utahns who were placed in the “Asian or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander” bridged race category because they had reported two or more races on the Census form. The assumption was made that if those Utahns had been bridged separately into an Asian versus a Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander category, the percentage distribution would be the same as it was for those reporting only one race. Since population data were needed by sex and age, the populations were partitioned by sex and age for 23 different age groups, and the logic was applied to each age/sex group. The final population estimates are then adjusted to the Utah Governor's Office of Planning and Budget population estimates. This is done by taking the race/age/sex proportions calculated from the Census estimates and applying them to the appropriate GOPB age group estimate.

For calculating health indicator rates, a population denominator is required. Most UDOH data sets use the OPHA bridged population estimates as a denominator.

When reporting simple population counts, such as those reported in the Demographic Context section of this report, the UDOH Center for Multicultural Health prefers to report "Race Alone or in Combination with Other Races" rather than "Race Alone" numbers for the following reasons:

- The "Race Alone" numbers exclude multi-racial people from the racial categories their parents belong to, even though they may identify with one or both of these races.
- The "Race Alone" numbers group multi-racial people into a single category, "Two or More Races." This category includes people as racially dissimilar as people of mixed American Indian and African American descent and people of mixed Asian and Pacific Islander descent.